

CHRIST

ON THE

CROSS,

Suffering for Sinners :

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The Sinners Redemption, Sanctification
and Exaltation, by the Death and bitter
Passion of our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ.

Mat. iii. 16, 17. Verses.

*And Jesus, when he was baptized, came straight out of the
Water, and John saw the Spirit of God descending like
a Dove, and lighting upon him ; And lo a Voice came
from Heaven saying, this is my beloved Son in whom I
am well pleased.*

Written by S. SMITHSON.

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Street. 1728.



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Christ on the Cross

Suffering for Sinners.

John III. 14, 15. Verses.

And as Moses lifted up the Serpent in the Wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth on him, should not perish but have everlasting Life.

THese merciful Words of our blessed Lord and Saviour, might ravish our Souls with Raptures of Joy, to think in what a most miserable and wretched Condition we were wallowing in by Reason of Sin, and wicked Abominations, that we are dropping into Hell and eternal Destruction ; for the Gates of the bottomless Lake stand open, and is like a Devouring Sepulchre to receive us ; But blessed be the most glorious Name of the Lord of Hosts, which has sent us out of his free Grace and Love, both a Conquerer and a Comforter, to wit, Jesus Christ, the Sanctifier of our Hearts, and the Salvation of our Souls.

Therefore, dear Friends and Christians, let us with Fear and Reverence give Attention to the sacred Word of God, in which we shall find the Birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, which is very mean and poor, and the Place so bad to entertain the King of Heaven, the Innocent Lamb of God, which takes away the Sins of the World, Luke ii. 11, 12. Verses. Christ being thus born, and laid in a Manger, amongst Oxen and Asses, because there was no Room in the Inn, it might in the first Place persuade us to be humble, and also bend our proud stubborn Hearts to the Will and Service of God : For Christ our blessed Saviour

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your thought it no Shame nor Disgrace to ly in a Manger
 to eat the Bread and drink the Water of Affliction, to be
 buffeted, spitted at, reviled, crowned with Thorns, and
 crucified on the Cross, to shed his precious Blood for the
 redeming of our lost Souls; then shall we be made
 Partakers of the Covenant of Grace, according to the
 Saying of the Prophet, *Ezekiel i 6*. Nevertheless I will
 remember my Covenant made with thee in the Days of thy
 Youth, and I will confirm to thee an everlasting Covenant.
 Shall we then, for all these special Mercies and Favours
 from our infinitely loving God, still sport at his Glory, his
 Goodness and Majesty, and walk like Children of Disobedi-
 ence? Shall we pluck Christ again from the Throne to
 enslave him? Shall we kick at his Divine Essence, and
 requite him with Ingratitude? Shall we deny God, ac-
 cording to the Words of the Prophet David, *Th*
Fool hath said in his Heart, there is no God. No, let
 us be afraid to offend God, much more to deny God.
 For it is a fearful Testimony of Truth, from the Mouth
 of our blessed Lord and Saviour Christ, That whoso-
 ever denyeth me before Men, him will I deny before my
 Father which is in Heaven, *Mat. x. 13*. Therefore con-
 sider with Fear and Reverence the Love of God, and Good-
 ness of God, the Mercies of God, and the Justice of God.
 For let none be deceived, God will not be mocked, they
 who daily like to fly with your own Pleasures and the
 Vanities of the World, without Repentance, you will suffer
 in the Flames of Punishment: From which eternal De-
 struction let it be the faithful Desire and Prayers of all
 People, to say Good Lord deliver us. Let us with good
 Devotion and Piety make Use of the Scripture, for the Help
 and Nourishment of our Souls, in which we shall find the
 Life of our Saviour Jesus Christ to be most pure and holy;
 we shall find him lowly, meek, humble, courteous, wise,
 prudent, profitable, charitable, and indeed with a Million
 more of special Graces and Vertues, in which he doth
 strengthen the weak, comfort the afflicted, help the Lam-
 ent, cure the Blind, makes the Dumb to speak, the Deaf to
 hear.

hear, and the Dead to walk, and the infernal Devils tremble. Then since it is so that Christ is our Saviour, Redeemer and Comforter, how ought we to glorify the great God of Heaven, in sending his only begotten Son to suffer for Sin, who knew no Sin, and to bear the Curse of the Cross for our Offences ! O what Satisfaction shall we render to the Lord of Lords, and King of Kings ! Nothing like a new Heart and a new Spirit, renewed by the Newness of Life, that we may receive the new Birth, without which 'tis impossible to see God. Then, as new born Babies do thirst for the Milk to nourish them, so will our Souls long and thirst after the Waters of Righteousness, to taste of the Tree of Life, and to have our Names recorded in the Book of God, for his chosen Ones ; yea his beloved Ones ; according to the Epistle of Paul to the *Theſſalonians* i. 4. Knowing Brethren, beloved, your Election of God. O how happy is that Soul, that is linked to God, and admitted into the blessed Unity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost ; in which Divine Body and glorious Majesty, the Saints and Martyrs, Prophets, Priests, Apostles and Angels have a joint Communion, where the Omnipotent God encompasses the Royal Camp of Heaven, where all are made Heirs and Coheirs with Christ, triumphing over Death, Hell and the Devil, reigning and ruling in Majesty, unto the highest Thrones of Felicity, Joy and Glory which is most infinite and unspeakable, wearing Crowns of Gold bedeckt with Princely Diamonds, to illustrate their Happiness with more Glory.

O my beloved Friends, Heaven it self is lovely, beautiful, rich, full of Pleasure, Joy and Felicity ; it is a Mansion of Vertue, a Paradise of Pleasure, the Kingdom of God, and the Crown of Glory. Then since Christ was born to redeem us, and crucified for us, let us run that we may obtain, let us lay hold on Christ by Faith, and follow the Steps of the Apostles, and follow the due and true Worship of God ; But let us not follow every whimsical Brain that disturbs both the Church and State. One says, here

Christ, another says, Lo there is Christ; but believe them not, but search the Scriptures, and there you shall find where our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is sitting at the Right Hand of God in Power and Glory.

Also take our Blessed Saviour's Words for a Testimony of this Truth. Read *Mat. xxiv.* quite through, which foretelleth of false Christs and false Prophets: And also in the Epistle of Jude, you shall find that the Prophecies of old are come now to pass; for how many new Christs and new Prophets, and strange confused Opinions have we had in this latter Age? And sure enough there is but one God, one Faith, one Baptism, and one intire Commandment, which is according to the Words of our blessed Redeemer, *Mat. xxii. 37.* And Jesus said unto them, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy Soul, with all thy Heart, and with all thy Mind.* I know no purer Religion than this is, first to love God above all, and your Neighbour as your self, and according to the Words of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for every one to do unto another, as he would they should do unto him: But alas! Our Hearts are frail and wicked, full of Deceit: Nay, there are many of them that pretend and profess the most Purity, Love, Godliness and true Religion, that do, and will the soonest of all betray you with a Judas Kifs, speak you fair to the Face and cut your Throat: Upon which Crew of Infidels our Saviour Christ cries out, *Wo unto you Scribes and Pharisees, Hypocrites, because ye shut up the Kingdom of Heaven before Men, for you your selves go not in, neither suffer ye them that would enter to come in. Wo unto you Scribes and Pharisees Hypocrites, for ye devour Widows Houses, even under a Colour of long Prayers, wherefore ye shall receive the greater Damnation, Mat. xxiii. 13, 14.* Then since it is so that Hypocrites are so much hated of God, let us endeavour to love one another with an intire Affection.

In the first Place, let our Souls, Hearts and Minds be to love God, and to fear God as he is the great Judge both of Heaven and Earth.

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In the second Place, Let us love our selves, and seek af-
ter Christ for the saving of our Souls. In the third Place,
Let us relieve the Household of Faith; and love our Neigh-
bours as our selves, that it may be said of us, as it is said
of faithful Abraham, that he walked with God. Let us
leave off Pride and Envy, Covetousness and Drunkenness,
Swearing and Whoredom, and let our daily Practice be in
the Divine Worship of God, with pure Devotion, and un-
feigned Piety: Let us relieve the Poor without grudging,
for Charity is the brightest Glory both in Heaven and Earth.
The Apostle Paul amplifies up the three supernatural
Graces, to wit, Faith, Hope and Charity, the 1st of Cor.
xiii. Chapter and the 13 Verse.

GOD, the Omnipotent Glory and Divine Majesty, is
Charity, for he has sent his only begotten Son to suffer for
our Sins, and for to redeem our drooping Souls that lay
yielding in Blood, and being dead in Sin and Trespases,
that by laying hold on Christ, we have free Access
to the Tribunal Seat of Grace, to cry Abba Father. Secondly,
Christ Jesus our blessed Redeemer is Charity, for he thought
no Shame nor Scorn, being equal to God, exalted above
the sacred Quire of Angels, to become Man, and under-
go the Persecution of the tyrannical Jews, and at last to suf-
fer his Precious Blood to be shed, and his Flesh nail'd to
the Cross, and all this to save his People from the Punish-
ment of Eternal Death. Thirdly, The Holy Ghost is Cha-
rity, for whosoever hath the Faith of Christ, hath the
Holy Ghost to be his Comforter: They need not fear,
that are stedfast in the Faith, what Man can do to them, for
Man can destroy the Body only; but fear God who
can cast into Hell Fire both Soul and Body: And our
Saviour saith, Whosoever is brought before a Magistrate
or the Testimony of the Truth, needs not fear what to
speak; For the Holy Ghost will teach them; the xiii.
Chapter of Mark from the 9 to the 14 Verse.

Gentle Reader, You shall find both the Joys and Sorrow
the Saints to endure; but says our blessed Lord and Sa-
viour Jesus Christ, He that endures to the End, shall be
saved.

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(8)
Then seeing it is so, That God is the God of Love, Christ the Son of Glory: Let me exhort you all in the Name of our blessed Redeemer not to worship any other God but him, neither in Heaven, nor on the Earth, and let not the Riches of the World steal your Hearts to adore any other as a God, nor let the vain Pumps and Pleasure of the World bewitch your Hearts to worship them as Gods, but let us worship the Great God of Heaven, with Fear, Love and Reverence: Let us pray devoutly, and praise his Name continually: Let us walk in his Laws and Ordinances, that we may have his eternal Love and Blessing.

Let our Meditation be upon Divinity, that our Reward may be in Heaven, that when this earthly Tabernacle of ours shall be dissolved, we may be received into the Kingdom of Glory: Let the Door of our Hearts and Souls stand open, that when our Saviour Jesus knocks, we may be received with a joyful welcome: For which Fulness of Goodness and Glory, let it be the Desire of Sinners earnestly to entreat our blessed Lord and Saviour to draw us with the Cables of his Love to himself, and place us in the Bottom of his Love, where we shall be made more than Conquerors through him that loved us, *Rom. viii. 2.* *John xvi. 3.* These Things have I spoken unto you that in me ye might have Peace, in the World ye shall have Affliction; but be of good Cheer, I have overcome the World, *John x. 17, 18.* Therefore, doth my Father love me, because I lay down my Life that I might take it again. No Man taketh it from me, but I lay it down, and have Power to take it up again. This Commandment have I received from my Father.

The Grace of God the Father, the Love of God the Son, the sweet and comfortable Fellowship of God the Holy Ghost, be with us now and for evermore. Amen.

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S. J. N. T. S.